

Message Text

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EA:ALEHN (DRAFT)

NEA:TTOMPKINS (DRAFT)

C:WSHINN

ARA/LA:MR.ROGERS (DRAFT)

S/S:JPMOFFAT

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069945

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET V-E DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: A. OUAGADOUGOU ,63 (NOTAL, (B) PARIS 06877 (NOTAL)

1. THE SOVIET UNION PLANS MAJOR CELEBRATIONS TO MARK THE
30TH ANNIVERSARY THIS MAY OF THE DEFEAT OF NAZI GERMANY,
WITH MAJOR CEREMONIES MAY 8-9, THE DAYS OF THE FORMAL

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RATIFICATION OF GERMAN SURRENDER AND OF THE OFFICIAL

SOVIET VICTORY CELEBRATION IN THE USSR CAPITAL, RESPECTIVELY. THIS MESSAGE OFFERS GUIDANCE FOR DEALING WITH V-E CELEBRATION QUESTION, WHICH WE EXPECT WILL COME UP AT EVERY POST WHERE SOVIETS MAINTAIN A PRESENCE (OUAGADOUGOU 0563 NOTAL). EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS ARE BEING SENT SEPARATE INSTRUCTIONS COVERING SPECIAL ACTIVITIES IN THEIR AREA.

2. "THE GREAT FATHERLAND WAR" REMAINS THE STARTING POINT FOR MOSCO'S JUSTIFICATION OF ITS PRESENCE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND PAST CELEBRATIONS HAVE BEEN PROPAGANDA OCCASIONS WITH STRONG ANTI-GERMAN OVERTONES. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THERE IS GENUINE DEEP PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OF MANY SOVIET CITIZENS AND ESPECIALLY CURRENT LEADERSHIP

IN TRAUMA OF WWII AND WE DO NOT WISH TO SLIGHT IMMENSE SOVIET CONTRIBUTIONS AND LOSSES IN THAT WAR. FURTHERMORE, MANY SOVIETS LOOK BACK TO WAR YEARS AS HOPEFUL BEGINNING OF EAST-WEST COOPERATION, AND THIS THEME, WITH ITS RELATION TO DETENTE, IS RECEIVING OFFICIAL ATTENTION IN SOVIET BUILDUP FOR FORTHCOMING ANNIVERSARY. THIS TIME ANTI-GERMAN ASPECT MAY BE MUTED SOMEWHAT, OUT OF SOVIET CONSIDERATION FOR USSR-FRG TIES.

3. THE SOVIETS HAVE APPROACHED US AND THEIR OTHER FORMER WWII ALLIES TO URGE PARTICIPATION IN THIS YEAR'S ACTIVITIES. FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH OUR NATO ALLIES, WE HAVE AGREED TO GO ALONG WITH CERTAIN ACTIVITIES, SO LONG AS THEY TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE GERMAN TERRITORY. WE ARE MOVING AHEAD, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH PREPARATIONS FOR EXCHANGES OF VETERANS GROUPS AND NAVAL VISITS BETWEEN US AND THE USSR; AND ARE CONSIDERING SENDING AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MOSCOW CEREMONIES TO BE SPONSORED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

4. OUR OVERALL OBJECTIVE IS TO PARTICIPATE IN CELEBRATIONS (OUTSIDE GERMANY) IN A WAY THAT WILL NOT ONLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT SOVIET SENSITIVITIES AND OUR DETENTE INTERESTS, BUT WILL ENSURE RECOGNITION OF OUR CONTRIBUTION IN THE WAR, AVOID OFFENSE TO THE FRG, AND BE CONSISTENT
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WITH ATTITUDES OF OTHER COUNTRIES INVOLVED (ESPECIALLY OUR ALLIES).

5. WE EXPECT SOME FORM OF SOVIET COMMEMORATIVE EFFORT WHEREVER THE SOVIETS HAVE A PRESENCE (EVEN IN COUNTRIES FAR REMOVED FROM WWII)--MOST LIKELY RECEPTIONS TO WHICH US OFFICIALS WILL BE INVITED. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES ATTENDANCE AT SUCH FUNCTIONS IS APPROPRIATE AND SHOULD

BE HANDLED IN ROUTINE MANNER, UNLESS POST FEELS ATTENDANCE NOT IN US INTERESTS (IN WHICH CASE INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD BE SOUGHT FROM DEPARTMENT). POSTS RECEIVING INVITATIONS MIGHT FIND IT USEFUL TO CONSULT IN LOW-KEY MANNER WITH NATO COLLEAGUES (PARTICULARLY FRG), DRAWING ON PARAS 2-4 ABOVE.

6. SOVIET OR EASTERN EUROPEAN INITIATIVES TO INJECT V-E DAY ISSUE INTO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AS THROUGH RESOLUTIONS PRESENTS PROBLEM. SUCH RESOLUTIONS WOULD BE NEEDLESSLY IRRITATING TO COUNTRIES ON WRONG SIDE IN WWII, AND COULD SET BAD PRECEDENT FOR INTRODUCTION OF OTHER IRRELEVANT ITEMS INTO WORK OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES. DEPARTMENT HOPES THAT US DELS IN COOPERATION WITH OTHERS CAN FIND WAYS TO DISCOURAGE SUCH INITIATIVES. OUR

COOPERATIVE POSITION ON US-USSR BILATERAL COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES SHOULD HELP.

7. UN IS ONE BODY WHICH CLEARLY OWES ITS EXISTENCE TO WWII ALLIED COOPERATION AND IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT SOVIETS HAVE SOUGHT VARIOUS KINDS OF OFFICIAL UN RECOGNITION OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-E DAY (IN ADDITION TO LOCAL COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITY). DEPARTMENT WILL CAREFULLY CONSIDER US RESPONSE TO ANY INITIATIVE INVOLVING UN ITSELF AND ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROMPTLY ALERT DEPARTMENT TO SIGNS OF SOVIET MOVES.

8. FOR PARIS (UNESCO): RE UNESCO INITIATIVES, WE EXPECT THAT SOVIET PRESENTATIONS WILL EMPHASIZE SOVIET SIDE OF WWII, BUT WILL NOT IGNORE ALLIED CONTRIBUTION. WE DO NOT WISH TO COMPETE WITH SOVIETS IN ORGANIZING EXHIBITIONS, FILM SHOWINGS, ETC., BUT DO WANT TO ENSURE CONFIDENTIAL

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BALANCED MATERIAL IN OFFICIAL UNESCO PUBLICATIONS AND US REP SHOULD DIRECT INFORMAL EFFORTS TO THIS END. DEPARTMENT IS ASSISTING THE PARTICIPATION OF US VETERANS DELEGATION IN MOSCOW CEREMONIES AND IN PRINCIPLE IS NOT AGAINST SIMILAR EXERCISE AT UNESCO, BUT PROBLEM OF FINANCING OPERATION SEEMS PROHIBITIVE. AFTER DISCUSSING ABOVE WITH ALLIED PERM REPS, US REP SHOULD INFORMALLY CONSULT WITH SOVIET REP TO DISCUSS US INTEREST IN ENSURING RECOGNITION IN COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES OF US AND ALLIED COOPERATIVE EFFORT IN ACHIEVING VICTORY IN WWII. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SOVIET THOUGHTS ON COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY THEY HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION (AS REQUESTED REF B) DURING MAY EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION AS WELL AS ANY LEADS ON MANNER IN WHICH SOVIETS PLAN TO CARRY OUT THEIR

ACTIVITIES. KISSINGER

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